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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

[redacted]

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT **Major Agricultural Crops/Medicinal Plants and Insect Substances/Plant Disease Control**

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1. Food Crops for Domestic Consumption:

   a. The major food crops produced for domestic consumption in Rumania up to 1948 were as follows:

      (1) Corn is the primary agricultural target within the country for a number of the common foodstuffs are essentially corn or corn products. This crop is emphasized on all farms -- large and small, private and collective. Some of the major by-products of corn (used domestically by the population) are farina, corn meal and flour. To approximate the yield per acre is rather difficult for several reasons. First, we estimated our agricultural yield by so many kilograms per 575 square meters of land surface. Secondly, the majority of Rumanian farmers up until 1948 used archaic and primitive methods for agriculture. Thirdly, in 1948 there was a critical shortage of food in Rumania [see paragraph No. 3]. Finally, the common source of natural fertilizer, animal refuse plus chemical fertilizers, is sadly lacking. The shortage of fertilizer from 1945 to 1948 was brought about through the systematic depletion of Rumanian livestock by our so-called "brothers", the Soviet military forces. [redacted] particularly 1945 and 1946, the highways and country roads were glutted with cattle and horses which were being driven by Soviet soldiers. Of course, these animals were being driven into Bessarabia which, once again, had become Soviet territory. [redacted] would hazard an estimate of yearly yield of corn by saying that the output varied from 450 kilograms per 575 square meters for the average peasant farmer to as high as 2400 kilograms on an equal amount of land farmed more scientifically.

      (2) Wheat was also grown in large quantities, particularly in the area of the Rumanian Banat. The yearly yield of wheat varied from 500 kilograms per 575 square meters on the average peasant farm to 2800 kilograms per 575 square meters on large farms possessing modern implements.

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(3) Sugar beets were raised in large quantities but in only two areas that are known to me, Oradea and in Moldavia. /Source is not aware of the yearly output since sugar beet growing was comparatively new to Rumania. Serious effort was expended from 1946 to 1948 to grow amounts sufficient to satisfy domestic sugar requirements./

(4) A major food crop, I might even say that it is one of the main ones, is rye. This grain, up to 1948, was always grown in quantities adequate for domestic needs. The areas most conducive to its growth are, of course, the mountainous areas. Consequently, Transylvania is the chief source of rye supply.

(5) Potatoes were grown in large quantities and until 1948 were always sufficient for family needs. Practically every farmer raised this crop with primary emphasis on family consumption and not resale.

(6) A factor of considerable interest to me was the Rumanian method of raising beans. The farmers plant corn and beans in the same rows and hills. This method serves two purposes: (1) The growing beans can utilize the corn stalk as a support; thus they need not be supported by manually driven poles. (2) Soil normally used for growing beans separately can be devoted to the growth of an additional food. As a matter of fact, some farmers plant pumpkin with corn in the same manner as the aforementioned corn and bean combination.

2. Major Non-Food Crops Domestically Consumed:

a. The major non-food crop [redacted] was sunflower seeds. This production was essentially important to Rumania because it is the chief source of cooking oil. The supply was not only adequate for cooking oil, but some was used as a lubricant in light industrial machinery.

3. The agricultural shortages of 1947 and 1948 were due to:

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a. The small land owners who possessed from 5 to 15 acres were not big producers in the state economy. The essence of our country's products depended on the large land owners who used modern scientific farming methods and equipment. Naturally, as the Communist influence grew stronger these people were ruined. They either escaped from Rumania or were persecuted. These large agricultural units fell apart because of the new agrarian reform, particularly collectivization. Their lands were given to those peasants who had insufficient equipment, knowledge and in many cases to peasants with no equipment; consequently, large areas of land were not even cultivated.

b. The new Communist State raised the prices to exorbitant levels and controlled the markets, thus destroying or suppressing the peasants' initiative.

c. Above all, the middle man was indirectly eliminated or removed by the imposition of impossible economic regulations which constantly contradicted each other. Thus the middle man disappeared from the scene which had frustrated and throttled his possibilities to function.

4. Rice

a. In 1946 and 1947 the "Peoples' Government" began to develop rice production. The area most conducive for rice growing, the Banat, was selected. Around the town of Salonta are many small artificial lakes. In 1947 this area alone yielded between 250 and 300 carloads /railroad cars with 10 thousand kilogram capacity (11 tons)/.

5. Flax

a. The peasant women of Rumania grow flax which they work over and make into linen. This is the chief source of Rumanian linen. It was sufficient for domestic needs.

6. Export from 1945 to 1949

a. In summary, the stability of Rumanian domestic food requirements depended on corn, beans, potatoes and rye. [redacted] no export of agricultural products from 1945 to 1949 for the previously mentioned reasons; food shortage plus USSR acquisition of these crops.

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7. Plant pests and diseases

a. The Colorado Bug had just reached the Rumanian border fall of 1948. it had made its way across Hungary by the spring of 1949.

b. Glavicep Purpurea was a common disease affecting rye.

c. A fungus disease which attacks maize (technical name not recalled). This disease attacked the ears of corn causing the ends to deteriorate in the form of a dry black powdery substance. The disease was not widespread nor did it ever reach epidemic stages.

d. Puctinea menthae attacked mint leaves. This disease was primarily due to moisture which left spots on the mint leaves, thus causing deterioration. Had the growers planted mint where prevalent winds could blow the moisture from these plants, Puctinea menthae would not have developed.

e. Peronos Spora and Philox Sera attacked grapes and were a problem to most grape growers.

f. During I had occasion to visit with cultivators and growers throughout much of Rumania. not recall a single epidemic during that time; however, this cannot be attributed to alertness or skill upon the part of the farmers or agricultural scientists, but perhaps to "Dame Fortune".

8. Plant disease control

a. Organization to control plant disease in Rumania is, in actuality, non-existent. In theory, the central state organ, Phyto Sain Ser /State Agricultural Office/, is set up to provide for the control of such diseases. recall that there was a branch office at Cluj. In the nine years worked in agriculture, cannot recall a single instance in which this organization took any positive action in providing the farms with information, advice or assistance. The major function of this state organization was border checking, that is, inspecting incoming and outgoing agricultural produce. These inspectors were, in most instances, corrupt. Baksheesh /graft/ shippers could export or import whatever they desired -- money talked.

b. Diseases were reported to the county agricultural office, which in turn reported to the Notar /government representative in each village/ who informed central headquarters in Bucharest. Again, in the nine years worked in Rumania, recall any situation in which the government actually aided in the control or diseases.

c. Disinfectants or instruction in the use of disinfectants were never sent down from the government. in contacting several hundred growers in Rumania, instructed them in the detection of plant disease and how to treat them. In most cases it took over two years to develop peasant and farmer interest in such things because for centuries the primitive methods had prevailed.

d. Insecticides and fungicides were unknown to the average farmer. About the only such item in use was copper sulphate which was utilized by grape producers in the various vineyards. With reference to the spraying of crops, there was none, other than spraying grapes.

e. visited villages and farms almost every day. hear that quarantine existed in any area. For example, in 1945 and 1946 when USSR forces in large numbers came into Rumania, they infected almost everything with lice. Of course, typhus took its toll. Thousands of Soviet soldiers and Rumanian civilians died. Even in the face of this disaster no quarantine of any type was ever effected for humans or for crops.

9. Plant breeding

a. [redacted] bred Benedictine, Digitalis and Belladona. There is a large experimental station at Cluj which was developed by the Hungarians. /Cluj, up to 1945, was a part of Hungary./ [redacted] recall only one project at this station. In 1947 an experiment was under way with poppy seeds. The aim of this experiment was to improve the opium content of poppies to approximately 20 per cent in content.

b. At Salaz, an individual [redacted] does not recall the name/ had developed a method by which he could extract morphine from Capita Pappa Varis.

c. One of the post World War II discoveries of Rumania was a research project in which an extract from Filecos Mares was found to be useful in treating certain sheep diseases. [redacted] was unable to describe or submit the name of the sheep disease./

d. Between 1946 and 1948 cotton growing and breeding was attempted near the Hungarian border. These ventures were unsuccesaful because the temperature was not conducive to cotton growing.

10. Medicinal plants and insects collected for export up to mid-1948:

	Name	Area of Growth and Collection
(1)	Rosa Canina	Cluj and Dej
(2)	Calcicum Autumnale	Vajdahunyad
(3)	Datura Stramonium	Miholyfalva and Northern Rumania
(4)	Hyosciamus Niger	Miholyfalva and Northern Rumania
(5)	Althaea	Miholyfalva and Northern Rumania
(6)	Canthorides	Beius
(7)	Tiliea	Oradea
(8)	Filecis Mares	Ciucia
(9)	Belladonnae	Ciucia and Padurea Neagra
(10)	Salix Alba	Padurea Neagra
(11)	Cortex Frangala	Zala or Zalau
(12)	Agaricus Campestris	Alasd
(13)	Adones Vernalis	Agires - Borod
(14)	Agrimonia	Bihor
(15)	Arnica Montana	Ciucia
(16)	Calamus	Banat
(17)	Flores Chamomillae	Banat - Bihor and Western Rumania
(18)	Coriandrum Sativum	Bessarabia
(19)	Digitalis Purpurea	Croatie
(20)	Digitalis Lanata	Valea lui Mihail
(21)	Flores Sambucus Nigra	Beius and Valea luiMihail
(22)	Gentiana Lutia	Sighet
(23)	Conium Maculatum	Throughout Rumania
(24)	Marrubium Vulgare	Valea lui Mihail
(25)	Juniperus Communis (bacca)	Sighet Marmatiei
(26)	Origanum Majorana	Banat (cultivated)
(27)	Capsicum Annum	Valea lui Mihail
(28)	Sinapsis Alba	Valea lui Mihail
(29)	Sinapsis Nigra	Valea lui Mihail
(30)	Uvae Ursi Arctostaphylos	Ciucia
(31)	Achillea Millefolium	Bihor
(32)	Agropyrum repens	Bihor
(33)	Cardiu Benedictini	Bihor (cultivated)
(34)	Centaurea Cyanus	Bihor (cultivated)
(35)	Crataegus Oxyacantha	Ciucia
(36)	Agristemi Graecais (sic)	Cluj primarily, but throughout Rumania as well
(37)	Eryngium Planum	Cluj
(38)	Helleborus Niger	Cluj and Ciucia
(39)	Herniaria Glabra	Cluj and Ciucia
(40)	Herniaria Hirsuta	Cluj and Ciucia

	Name	Area of Growth and Collection
(41)	Hypericum perforatum	Lecuseu
(42)	Secale Cornutum	Zalau
(43)	Lycopodium Clavatum	Sebis
(44)	Melilotus Officinatis	Bihor
(45)	Papaver rhoeos	Bihor
(46)	Polygonum	Bihor
(47)	Pulmonaris	Ciucia
(48)	Sambucus ebulus	Satu-Mare
(49)	Saponaria Albae radix	Western Bihor
(50)	Thymus Vulgaris	Beius
(51)	Thymus Serpullum	Beius
(52)	Tusselago Zarfara	Aghires and Ciucia
(53)	Veratrum Album	Ciucia
(54)	Verbascum thapsiforme	Hunedoara
(55)	Viscum Album	Aghires
(56)	Centaurium Umbellatum	Zalau

1. Amounts collected yearly and potential yield.
/The following numerical order is identical to paragraph 10 (above). For example, item (1) listed below refers to Rosa Canina, etc. In carloads expressed below, one carload equals 10 thousand kilograms or 22 thousand pounds (11 tons)./

	Amount Collected Yearly and Comments	Potential Yield
(1)	26 carloads	120 carloads
(2)	700 to 1000 kilograms Used for scientific plant improvement	Unknown
(3)	1 carload - used for alkaloids	2 - 3 carloads
(4)	1 carload - used for alkaloid extracts	2 - 3 carloads
(5)	1500 kilograms	2000 - 3000 kgs of leaves 25 kgs of flowers
(6)	250 kilograms - used for veterinary medicine	Unknown
(7)	3000-4000 kilograms (flowers and leaves)	Unknown
(8)	No set figure. Quantity unlimited.	
(9)	As needed. Special export of Atrophine	[redacted]
(10)	Small quantities	Unknown
(11)	1 carload in combination	2-4 carloads
(12)	½ carload in combination	1-3 carloads
(13)	One of largest items exported to Holland and Denmark	4-5 carloads
(14)	500 kilograms	Unknown
(15)	50 kilograms	Unknown
(16)	2000 kilograms	Unknown
(17)	One of Rumania's best crops	15-20 carloads per year can be gathered
(18)	[redacted]	
(19)	Cultivated at Orestia as needed	Unknown
(20)	Only one individual in Rumania could produce it	[redacted]
(21)	3000 kilograms	Unknown
(22)	200-400 kilograms	Unknown
(23)	Unlimited quantities	---
(24)	200-800 kilograms	---
(25)	Unlimited quantities	15 carloads
(26)	Ceased to exist by 1949. Had been cultivated in the Banat by old Schwabian settlers who were driven from the area by the Communists in 1949.	
(27)	Cultivated. In dry powder form 6 carloads could be collected. The pepper mill used to grind [redacted]um Annum was still functioning in 1948 in Oradea.	
(28)	Very small quantities	Cultivated as required
(29)	Very small quantities	Cultivated as required
(30)	800 kilograms	2 carloads

	Amount Collected Yearly and Comments	Potential Yield
(31)	Unlimited	Unlimited
(32)	300 kilograms	Limited, because it was difficult to prepare
(33)	We made about 30 carloads per year	Unlimited
(34)	50 kilograms	Scarce. Hard to collect
(35)	1-2 carloads	Abundant
(36)	3000 kilograms	Limited
(37)	25 kilograms	Scarce
(38)	2000 kilograms	Sufficient for needs
(39)	200 kilograms	Unknown
(40)	Less than 200 kilograms	Scarce
(41)	Up to 5000 kilograms	2 carloads
(42)	1000-3000 kilograms	Varies with climate
(43)	2 kilograms only	Scarce
(44)	700-800 kilograms	Abundant
(45)	1 kilogram (dry) 15 kilograms (wet)	250 kilograms
(46)	During World War II we made approximately 50 carloads for the Germans. Used for chlorophyll.	
(47)	50-60 kilograms	Limited
(48)	1500 kilograms	Plentiful
(49)	1 carload. Used for soap and textile industry	Unknown
(50)	3000-4000 kilograms	Plentiful
(51)	2 kilograms	Scarce
(52)	1700 kilograms	Plentiful
(53)	500-600 kilograms	Sufficient
(54)	40 kilograms	Scarce
(55)	3000 kilograms	Sufficient
(56)	600 kilograms	Sufficient

2. [redacted] that the bulk of the above materials was in storage in Rumanian warehouses in 1948 [redacted] No exports were being made at that time for the new Rumanian State and its machinery deemed that it would either utilise the above or export it under the new state regulations. [redacted] what happened to any of the above.)

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4/784.11 60M
783.9 60M
784.12 60M
785.42 60M
785.41 60M
786.11 60M
788.1 60M
4/784.19 60M
786.563 60M
786.543 60M
632.58 60M
632.489 60M
632.461 60M
632.480 60M
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